



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

APR 1 2009

The Honorable Charlie Schlottach
Missouri House of Representatives
Chair, Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
701 E, 22nd Street, Suite 110
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Mr. Schlottach:

Thank you for your March 24 letter expressing your support for high-speed rail as a key component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and emphasizing the opportunities inherent in joint State/Federal investment in the high-speed rail corridors of the Midwest. I have shared your letter with my staff in the Office of Railroad Development of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

I am pleased to report that our development of the strategic plan for high-speed rail/intercity passenger rail under the ARRA is progressing. The plan is indeed addressing issues of the type that you so thoughtfully and helpfully raise in your letter. The conceptual framework of the entire program, the kinds of corridors and proposals that would be eligible for the various funding categories, and the importance of completed planning, environmental, and preliminary engineering work—all these topics are under consideration in our development of the strategic plan.

Thank you again for sharing your views on the implementation of the high-speed rail provisions of the ARRA. We at the FRA look forward to working closely and productively with your Commission and its constituent States as we seek to maximize the public benefits of investment in intercity passenger rail infrastructure, equipment, and service.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Rae
Deputy Administrator